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Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Eighth Conference.

Report of the Netherlands 2002-2007

Submitted by the Netherlands**

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Summary

1. This report describes the organisational structure of geographical names processing in the Netherlands (a new law is now likely to provide a legal basis for the standardization work of the Topografische Dienst/Kadaster) and the progress made since 2002 in dealing with minority names and protecting geographical names as part of the cultural heritage. A highlight has been the organisation of the *International Conference on Minority names/Indigenous Names and Multilingual Areas*. There has been extensive support from the Netherlands in the 2002-2007 term for the organisation of UNGEGN toponymy courses. Finally the participation of the Netherlands in the EuroGeoNames project which aims at establishing a virtual Europe-wide geographical names data base is mentioned.

Report of the Netherlands 2002-2007

Organization

2. In the Netherlands there is no official geographical names bureau. The topographic survey (Topografische Dienst Kadaster) de facto establishes and maintains geographical names. For the province Fryslân, the provincial authorities have taken the responsibility for the geographical names, together with the municipalities, with regular advice from the names committee of the Fryske Akademy (Frisian Academy of Sciences). The *Adviescommissie aardrijkskundige namen in Nederland* (Advisory commission on geographical names) of the Royal Academy of Sciences is consulted whenever, because of mergers of municipalities, new geographical names have to be created. The *Nederlandse Taalunie* (Dutch Language Union), a supranational body in charge of language matters for Belgium, the Netherlands and Suriname, has a Working Group on foreign geographical names (*Werkgroep Buitenlandse aardrijkskundige namen*) in charge of standardizing dutch exonyms. These are available at http://taaladvies.net/taal/aardrijkskundige_namen/

Geographical names as cultural heritage

3. A workshop on the collection of field names was held at the Meertens Institute (the Research and Documentation Institute for Dutch Language and Culture) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, April 25, 2003. This was organised in order to launch a new field names survey project in the Netherlands. The papers presented here can be accessed at http://www.meertens.knaw.nl/books/veldnamen/ (in Dutch).

4. A project to build a digital spatio-temporal geographical names database for Fryslân province (Frisia) has been started up by the Fryske Akademy (Frisian Academy of Sciences). It aims at linking all versions of toponyms that are found through time for the Frisian language area.

Promotion of minority group and indigenous geographical names

5. All 1000 hydronyms in the Frisian language area in the Netherlands have been collected and edited and standardized in their Frisian version and published in map-form (*Fryske Wetternammen,* published by Fryslân Province, Leeuwarden/Ljouwert 2003) on behalf of the Frisian provincial government; these minority names have been accepted as the official version by the provincial administration May 15, 2007. They have been sent to the

Topografische Dienst Kadaster, for incorporation in the topographical databases and maps and in the forthcoming new gazetteers.

6. Dantumadeel municipality (in Frisia) has recently approved the official rendering of its place names in Frisian; these will be officially implemented October 1st, 2008. By that time, 5 of the 31 municipalities in Frisia (that is about 40% of all place names in this province) will have all their place names officially in the Frisian language only.

7. A side effect of this standardisation project is that some hydronyms in the non-Frisian-speaking areas in the province have been standardised in the local Dutch dialect form. The Topographic Survey of the Netherlands, to whom - in absentia of an official names bureau in the Netherlands - the burden of establishing and maintaining standardised name forms has fallen, is now confronted with municipalities that want to change names from official Dutch into dialect forms, thus threatening the consensus on their spelling.

Pronunciation

8. As mentioned above, a website was started by the *Nederlandse Taalunie* (Dutch Language Union, an umbrella organisation in charge of the Dutch language in Belgium, Suriname and the Netherlands) which also contains an updated list of officially accepted Dutch exonyms with their standardized spelling and their pronunciation. This website can be found at: http://taalunieversum.org/taal/aardrijkskundige_namen/ . As a special function it contained a pronunciation module, so that by clicking an exonym it would be pronounced. In 2006 the pronunciation part was temporarily removed.

Support for training and publications

9. In the 2002 toponymy training course organised in Enschede, Frankfurt and Berlin, lecturers participating from the Netherlands were Nico Bakker, Ferjan Ormeling and Tjeerd Tichelaar. In the field of toponymy courses the Netherlands cooperated with Germany in the production of a toponymy course manual, *Training course on Toponymy*, published by the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) as nr 28 of its publication series (Frankfurt 2004) with the edited lectures of the 2002 DGSD Toponymy course.
The Netherlands also contributed to the *Manual for the national standardization of Geographical Names*, Part 2, edited by Ms. H. Kerfoot, and published in a number of language versions by the United Nations in 2006/7.

10. Together with Germany, the Netherlands provided the lecturing input for the UN toponymy course for East-Africa held in Khartoum, Sudan, 2003. UN Training courses in Mozambique (2004, 2006), Australia, Indonesia (2005) and Vienna (2006), were supported with teaching staff from the Netherlands as well, totalling 3 person-months.

12. Together with the Institute of Cartography of the Eötvös Lorand University in Budapest, Hungary, the Netherlands produced a toponymy module for the International Cartographic Association (ICA) web course, accessible at the website of the ICA Commission on Education and Training, chaired by Dr. Laszlo Zentai, Hungary (http://lazarus.elte.hu/cet/,

Joint meetings of divisions and working groups

13. A joint meeting of the Dutch- and German-Speaking Division of UNGEGN and the DGSD Symposium series, Geonames 3, was held in April 2005 as the *International Conference on Minority names/Indigenous Names and Multilingual Areas*. It was held in Leeuwarden/Ljouwert, the capital of the Frisian minority language area in the Netherlands, and organised locally by Arjen Versloot and Karel Gildemacher.

14. In 2005 the chairmanship of the Dutch- and German-speaking division of UNGEGN, held since 2000, was transferred from the Netherlands to Austria. During the 2002-2007 term DGSD meetings chaired by the Netherlands were held in Berlin, the Hague, New York and Leeuwarden/Ljouwert.

Integration of national names into national and regional spatial data infrastructures

15. For the first time ever, place name collection has been part of a law passed in the Netherlands. In the Kadasterwet (law on the creation and maintenance of the Cadastre, accepted by Parliament March 5, 2007) the creation of the *Topografisch basisbestand* (Basic topographical database of the Netherlands) was regulated. This also implies the collection of geographical names, which is now officially the responsibility of the National Mapping Agency.

16. The new object-oriented version of the Basic topographical database of the Netherlands (TOP10NL) will be completed in 2007. One of the object attribute categories will be the geographical names, so that names will be linked in the files to objects as well, instead of to coordinates only, as used to be the case. The following object categories are discerned: road, rail and water segments, buildings, areas, infrastructural elements, relief elements, administrative, geographical or functional areas:

For *road segments* all street names, either in Dutch or in Frisian, will be collected, as well as road numbers. For special road segments names of motorway exits (and their numbers), interchanges, bridges, tunnels have to be collected.

For *rail segments* no names have to be collected, unless located on bridges or in tunnels

For *water segments* (rivers, canals, lakes, inlets, estuaries) names have to be collected, either in Dutch or in Frisian, while regarding the drainage infrastructure names of sluices and locks and names of bridges have to be collected as well.

For *buildings*, names can be collected in exceptional cases; more frequently, designations that indicate the function of isolated buildings are collected (in Dutch).

For *areas* that is visually limited pieces of land, names can be collected, either in Dutch or in Frisian. Examples are plots of arable land, forests, orchards.

For *infrastructural elements*, designations that show the function of the object can be collected

For *relief elements*, some names in Dutch or Frisian will be collected

For *administrative areas*, all province or municipality names either in Dutch or in Frisian will be collected

For *geographical areas*, names either in Dutch or in Frisian will be collected: populated places (places, hamlets, town wards, with their population numbers), polders, fields.

For *functional areas*, names in Dutch or Frisian can be collected: industrial estates, cemeteries, bungalow parks, zoos, quarries, airports, estates, nature reserves, sport complexes or waste disposal sites. More frequently, functional designations will be added.

17. A gazetteer based on the 1:100 000 topographic map has been created in 2005. New provincial topographical atlases 1:25,000 have been published in 2004, and contain place name indexes. A more complete gazetteer based on the 1:25 000 map series is available from the Topografische Dienst Kadaster for research purposes.

EuroGeoNames project

18. Since 2004 Utrecht University and the Topografische Dienst/Kadaster in the Netherlands participate in the EuroGeoNames project which aims at establishing a Europe-wide virtual geographical names database and service. To this end the Netherlands participated in producing in 2005 an inventory of current practices and procedures of European national mapping agencies regarding the collecting and processing of geographical names and the production of gazetteers, which can be downloaded from the EuroGeographics website http://www.eurogeographics.org/eng/documents/051115_SI-EGN_final_report.pdf
In 2006 the consortium to produce this service was extended with the Dutch company GeoDan. In 2007 with the cooperation of Topografische Dienst/Kadaster (Nico Bakker and Maarten Storm), Nationaal Geografisch Instituut (Kathleen van Doren) and Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu) a workshop was organised in Utrecht University to define the User/business requirements of such a geographical names service, and an information model produced as the basis for further programming. The resulting report was made available in 2007.